(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Till 2001, the defence production was confined in the public sector, presently having 8 Defence Public Sector Undertakings and 39 Ordnance Factories. In May 2001, the defence industry sector was opened up to 100% for Indian private sector participation subject to licensing. Since then, 38 letters of intent/industrial licences, have been issued to various companies in the private sector for manufacture of a wide range of defence items.

Various steps have been taken by the Government during the last three years to encourage Indian industries to participate in defence production. These include provisions relating to offset, maintenance, through Indian industry, of 'Buy' category of items procured from overseas sources and level playing field, which have been incorporated in the Defence Procurement Procedure-2006. Issues concerning the Indian industry like shared development cost and minimum order quantity in development projects have also been addressed in the 'Make' procedure notified as part of Defence Procurement Procedure-2006.

Intrusion of ISI in armed forces

† 2461. SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ISI has intruded/is intruding in Army and other armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of intruders apprehended, till date, and the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) There is no corroborative evidence to prove the veracity of intrusionof ISI into Armed Forces. Comprehensive preventive measures are being enforced and regular security review is carried out from time to time with a view to sensitize the environment for making the security apparatus foolproof. In additoin the existing Counter Intelligence set up in the Armed Forces is synergized on a regular basis to meet new challenges.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.